

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Virginia Emergency Operations Center
10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236

Spot Report # 1
Appomattox Gas Pipe Line Explosion
14 September 2008, 1500 Hours

***Summary:**

At 0818 hours, 14 September the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) was notified by the Appomattox County Emergency Coordinator of an explosion and fire on the Williams Transco natural gas pipeline located near State Routes 26 and 460 in the County. Several homes were reported damaged with unconfirmed reports of casualties. A ½ mile radius has been established around the affected area. County Officials requested VDEM resources to respond.

VDEM / VEOC Actions:

- VDEM Regional Coordinator M. Cocker and VDEM Regional Hazmat Officer W. Collins were notified and responded to the scene to assist local fire units at 0845 hours, 14 September.
- The Roanoke and Salem Regional Hazmat Response Teams were requested to assist and responded with 12 personnel and equipment and were in enroute at 0945 hours.
- At further requests of local officials the VEOC Technical Support Unit (TSU) has responded to the scene at 1400 hours along with 3 personnel to provide a base of operations and interoperable communications to first responders and other agencies on scene. This will be for a 24 / 7, 72 hour deployment. 2 additional support vehicles have also responded to the scene.
- A Mobile Command Post from neighboring Amherst County is enroute to the scene to assist in the response effort.
- The VEOC continues to monitor the situation and will be providing updates.
- A conference call was held at 1120 hours with members of the on call VEOC Incident Manage Cadre (IMC) in response to this incident.
- At the request of VSP, the VEOC contacted DMV reference possible issue of waiver permits for extended hours of operation for private response personnel and vehicles from the pipeline company that will be coming from Pennsylvania to assist in the response.
- An event has been created in Web EOC; 2008-09 Appomattox Gas Explosion.

Local Actions:

- Appomattox County declared a local emergency at 1136 hours 14 September and has activated their EOC.
- One shelter was opened at Appomattox High School with no reported residents.
- Local Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement personnel on scene

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- A mile of State Route 26 has been closed near the scene of the pipeline explosion.

Other Actions:

- Per VDEM Regional Coordinator Cocker, pipeline personnel are enroute to the scene from both Houston, Texas and from Pennsylvania.
- VSP and VDOT personnel on scene assisting in response operations.
- Other Federal Agencies are responding to the scene including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Damage Reports:

- Two residential homes are reported destroyed and two with exterior structural damage.
- One individual reported with minor injuries and has been transported to a local hospital,

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